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international Application No 7/EP2004/051997

a. classification of subject matter IPC 7 C12N15/85 C07K14/38 A01K67/027 C1201/68 C07K14/21 C07K14/21 C07C47/06 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C12N C07K A01K C12Q C07C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS, EMBASE, MEDLINE C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1-7,9-27Υ CHEN ANPING: "Acetaldehyde stimulates the activation of latent transforming growth factor-betal and induces expression of the type II receptor of the cytokine in rat cultured hepatic stellate cells.' THE BIOCHEMICAL JOURNAL. ENGLAND 15 DEC 2002, vol. 368, no. Pt 3, 15 December 2002 (2002-12-15), pages 683-693, XP002267295 ISSN: 0264-6021 cited in the application figures 3-5 page 686 Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents; "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention 'E' earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the International search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 12/01/2005 13 December 2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,

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